



TASK FORCE FALCON



# Falcon Flier

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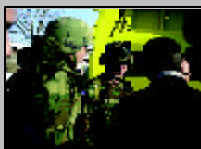
February 15, 2002

## What's Inside...



### Sky High...

National Guard pilot flies skies over Kosovo.  
Page 4



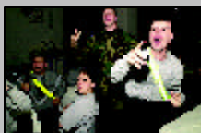
### 'Chosin' Ones...

TF 1-32 Commander proud of his unit's accomplishments.  
Page 5



### Say Cheese...

Check out the best of Combat Camera.  
Pages 8-9



### Super Sunday...

Soldiers enjoy Super Bowl festivities.  
Page 16.



Sgt. Jamie Brown/photo

Brig. Gen. Keith M. Huber visits with children of the Zenel Hajdin/Sveti Sava Elementary School in Ponesh/Pones. Huber spoke to students, teachers and local officials during his visit.

## TFF commander pays visit to elementary school

by Sgt. Jamie Brown  
Senior Editor

PONESH/PONES, Kosovo—It was a spring like day in this scenic community on Feb. 8, as Brig. Gen. Keith Huber paid a visit to the children and teachers of the Zenel Hajdin/Sveti Sava Elementary School. This was the first such visit the Task Force Falcon Commander has made to an academic institution.

As the smiling children stood in a row, Huber shook hands and greeted each one. He then addressed all the children.

"You are the future of Kosovo," he said. "The lessons that you learn here, at school, and in your homes will shape your attitudes, and shape the people that you grow into. The lessons you learn standing next to each other, right now, will determine how you act as adults. As you learn from your books, the strength of a democracy is diversity and tolerance. And as you learn from interacting here with this group, that you're all human beings. Learn these lessons well, of tolerance and understanding."

Bajram Shala, an 8-year-

old student at the school, enjoyed meeting the American General. "It was good," he said. "I liked him."

Huber then met with the teachers at the school. He listened to their concerns about structural repairs the school needs, and then spoke with them. He praised the sacrifices of the teachers, and the cooperation among different ethnic groups in the community of Ponesh/Pones. He then discussed the future of Kosovo.

"The example of what you are physically accomplish-

ing here, is that children of ethnic diversity and different languages can come to the same physical location with the common goal of receiving an education," Huber said. "I am ready to assist you with the physical repairs of this school, for the children."

Ladies and gentlemen, you in this room are the role models for the rest of Kosovo, because you have put aside your violent history for the welfare of the children. Perhaps in the children the real lesson can be learned here. It's not what's in those  
(Please see VISIT, page 7)

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## TFF Commanding General

## The art of communication: listening is the key



Brig. Gen. Keith M. Huber

Just this week I finished a very rewarding group of sensing sessions with our soldiers, and leaders over the last two weeks. Each of the groups submitted to me, ahead of time, 25 to 30 questions that they wanted me to address during a two-hour session with each group. I found the questions to be at a P.H.D. level, and the questions focused on the bigger political, military picture. There were some questions on quality of life issues,

but most of the questions were at a more sophisticated, visionary level than one might immediately think you would see. It really brought up the issue of how we as an institution, and human beings, communicate with each other.

Once again, the advantage to being forward deployed, here in Kosovo, is that we have the opportunity to communicate. Lets take a look at how we communicate today. I think we've lost some of the skill sets.

If you ask most Americans today, 'tell me the three ways that you communicate,' I submit to you that the majority of the people would say electronic, which is e-mail. We all would say that this is a great technology advancement. I'm not convinced that it is. I'm personally not thrilled with e-mails, because e-mail places people within their own isolation, within a sterile environment, sit behind their desks, punch on this keyboard, read what is on a screen, and hit send. I'm not sure that that it does not equate to an individual being in a darkened room, or a dark movie theater, or in a crowd during a demonstration situation. They don't feel individually responsible, or connected to what they write or do. They are simply, in isolation. They can print and say whatever they want, and then they electronically send it off. It's as if from that point, they then no longer have any responsibility for it. They've done their job. Message sent was an "ACTION PASSED." Then we get into "Well didn't you read the e-mail I sent you?" or "I responded to that in e-mail." This lacks, what is most important in my mind, the recipient/listener, the person who you are

talking to. This is what we need when we perform the art of communication, the person that you're communicating with.

Yes there are some electronic techniques to determine if someone opened the e-mail. And there are electronic techniques to figure out if the e-mail was received, but you truly have no idea who read that e-mail, if they received that e-mail, if the intended recipient received that e-mail, and then where else that e-mail went. With the stroke of a key, how many people received it? This is the proverbial chain letter here, that someone has taken, intended for one receiver, and has now forwarded it to multiple addressees, which were never intended to receive it, and may in fact have altered the content of your message. So I'm not a fan of e-mail communications as a technique of communication by itself.

Now those same Americans would probably say that their second technique of communication is the telephone. The telephone is always hard, because it depends on the language barrier, the clarity of the phone line, the tone of voice. You may or may not receive the message, or the message that you're transmitting may or may not have been received. The art of communication is a very complex art. It involves more than words.

To me, what most people would probably say would be their third choice of communications, is always my first choice, and that is face-to-face communications. One on one, person to person, personal communications where you can sit down, without being distracted, you can give your full attention to the person you're speaking to. You have the opportunity to observe their non-verbal cues, their body language. You can look into their eyes, and you have some sort of idea as to whether or not they're receiving your message of what you are trying to communicate. Face to face communications is a real art, trying to clearly state your message, and performing quality control, as to how the message is going to be received, and then that the message was received.

The most important part of communications is the skill of listening. The majority of people can, some can speak very quickly, and in multiple languages. But do they ever listen? Do they ever absorb? Do they ever comprehend that their message is being received?

I consider myself to be a fairly clear and concise

communicator, but as I had the privilege to sit down with our soldiers, and leaders, in these sensing sessions, a lot of the questions they asked, had been questions that I had answered in different forums to different people. So immediately it gave me feedback as to the effectiveness of the communications throughout the Task Force Falcon family. And then I could tell, because I had the questions ahead of time, I could tell from the audience, whether or not I was really answering their questions, from the non-verbal feedback.

I have said to you before that we all will walk away from this deployment, better trained individually and collectively. We will all build a stronger bond, based on mutual respect and trust in each other. I ask you now to challenge yourself, in your interactions with fellow soldiers, in your dealings with human beings, to take the additional effort to force yourself to deal with people personally, and to use the technology based e-mail as a second or third resort. To put the human touch back into the art of communication, and to be more concerned with the accuracy and completeness of the message that you're sending, and therefore needs to be received, rather than how quickly you can punch the electrons out.

The art of communication is something like a muscle group that if not exercised, will atrophy. The art of communication should be a very personal affair where thoughts that you have, concepts that you have, within your brain, within your heart, that you explain to people how you feel, and what you want them to accomplish. It is the most important thing we do.

So I want you to reflect upon how you communicate with your fellow soldiers, your leadership, your parents, your family, or with your friends. How do you express to them your concerns, your challenges, and your frustrations? How do you allow them to understand the complexity of the situation you currently face? So that maybe they can understand, and be of some help, so that they can council, so that you can help your fellow soldiers, so that you can council them. How well do you listen? It's amazing what you learn when you stop speaking, and you listen, and you show people that you're willing to listen. So work on this muscle group. Don't let it atrophy. Learn once again, the art of communications.

Climb to Glory... to the top.

## TFF Command Sergeant Major

## NCO support channel: complementing the chain of command



Command Sgt. Maj. Ted Walker

The Army has several channels used in passing information through organizations to accomplish its mission; the Chain of Command, Staff or Technical, and the Noncommissioned officer support channel. I will focus on the Noncommissioned officer support channel, and provide some expectations the Army has for it to assist the chain of command in

accomplishing its mission. The regulations describe the NCO support channel as being parallel and complementing the chain of command. In other words, they work side by side, and assist the commanders.

It is a way of communications and supervision from the command sergeant major to first sergeant and other NCOs and enlisted personnel in units. This channel plans and conducts the day-to-day unit operations within policies and directives. It is responsible and accountable for the training of soldiers in their MOS, basic skills and attributes of a soldier. It must teach soldiers the history, military customs, courtesies and tradi-

tions of the Army, along with caring for soldiers and their family members at all times, keeping up with weapons, equipment, and instilling Army values. The NCO channel must set high standards and lead by example.

I believe that in order for units to be effective and efficient both the chain of command and the NCO channel have to work as a team, each realizing that something is greater than themselves. These are two paths with many connecting trenches, with the same purpose: mission accomplishment and welfare of the soldiers. They are a recipe for success.

## About the Falcon Flier...

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# Soldier on the Street

What do you like best about being in Kosovo?



Spc. Jessica Blimline,  
Clerk  
10th SSB  
(Camp Monteith)

"I can take college classes for free to earn promotion points."



Sgt. Robert Hussey,  
S-6  
Task Force 1-30  
(Camp Monteith)

"I've been to the Balkans three times. I love the weather and the people."



Sgt. 1st Class Larry Phillips,  
Assistant S-3 NCOIC  
Task Force 1-30  
(Camp Monteith)

"Battalion interaction with the schools, especially Muchbaba, which is one of the less fortunate schools in our sector."



Capt. Onintza Wren,  
JVB Chief  
TFF JVB Office  
(Camp Bondsteel)

"The beautiful mountains that you see when you come out of the dining facility in the morning."



Sgt. Jeffery Self,  
Finance NCO  
10th SSB Finance  
(Camp Bondsteel)

"The chow hall. I like the 24-hour access and the food selection."



Spc. Scott Franz,  
Mechanic  
HHC, 27th Engineer  
(Camp Bondsteel)

"Getting to see a new country and meeting the people. Experiencing a new culture."

## Commentary

### A second helping of teamwork

by Spc. Bill Putnam  
Staff Writer

Like a few others I've interviewed the last three months, this is my second tour in the Balkans. But unlike my interviewees who've traveled around the region, I've remained relatively stationary; this is my second tour in Kosovo in two years.

My old unit, a National Guard unit from Washington state, arrived here in December of 1999. I was brand new to journalism at the time. But along the way, on that seven-month long adrenaline rush, I learned a few things about me, and the Army.

I worked with a lot of different units from different nations and different parts of our own Army. Every time I showed up to do a story, people took me in and showed me the ropes. They made me feel a part of them, a member of their team.

In late May of 2000 I had about a month before I redeployed back to Seattle. My editor sent me out on a five-day mission to the village of Mogilla, where a platoon from the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment was stationed. Those five days were some of the best I'd ever spent in the Army. Mogilla was, and still might be, a town with a lot of ethnically-based tension. The weather became increasingly hotter and the tension in that ville, while new to me, was high. My first day there, we detained a Serb woman who threw a rock at a little Albanian girl. The platoon sergeant told me to suit up. I was going with his "grab team." I still remember that woman's face as she looked at the 25 Infantrymen in full battle rattle who had come to take her back to the command post at the church. She looked scared, concerned and a little defiant in those brief moments. I stood behind one grunt and took photos, as he provided cover for his platoon sergeant. I glimpsed his facial expression and smile briefly. I asked him about it later that night. He told me he loved his job and where he was, and he was glad I was there to see it.

A couple of days later, I was out with a fire team in the platoon on an Observation Post/Listening Post mission when an elderly Serb woman's house was torched. The orange flames leaped up in the black sky, destroying the town's calm that night. Soon a fire truck from Vitina showed up and put the fire out. The same grunt and I helped put the smoldering embers out with my camel back. "Get some, PAO!" he said to me as the water poured from the hose on to the embers.

Later that night we were in the farm fields that surround Mogilla. As a storm approached us, we sat in the tall grass and waited for anyone trying to come back and finish the job at the house. A few times we heard some noises from the house and a couple of the guys would go in to investigate. My job was to cover the house while my buddy next to me covered the fields behind us. The noises we heard turned out to be some pigs stuck in a barn next to the house.

As I left to file my story at Camp Bondsteel the next day, the grunt pulled me aside and told me to tell how it really was out there. A few weeks later I was on a plane home, leaving Kosovo. I thought, forever.

I still think about those five days nearly two years later. To see what I saw, the burned out houses, defiant people and the teamwork of that unit as they dealt with it all, makes me wonder what drives people to stay in and come back to situations like Kosovo or Bosnia or even, now, Afghanistan.

There is no one answer. Each of us has a different reason for coming back to one region in particular, or constantly deploying to new places. For some of us it's the excitement of riding on the spear's tip, being in the middle of the action. For others it's the chance to travel. Then there are some who come for the teamwork.

How many people back home can say they've been to Kosovo? Who back home can say they've helped create peace? Others can say they were on football or baseball championship teams, but not many can say they were a part of team that made a difference in someone's life. We, as soldiers, airmen, marines and sailors, can answer the above questions—especially the last one.

I flew home and into a whole new world for me. I returned to college and started a life. But something was missing, something that I couldn't put my finger on back in the States.

Nearly two years later I finally found out why I came back here. I was missing something from my life, something I'd never experienced until those seven months in 2000. I missed being a part of a team.



## Army National Guard pilot/California trooper enjoying active duty tour

by Cpl. Taylor Barbaree  
Editor

CAMP WHITE EAGLE—Chief Warrant Officer 2 Paul Smyrski could be patrolling the highways of Southern California, but instead he chose to fly the skies over Kosovo.

The 35-year old UH-60 Blackhawk medevac pilot, a member of the 717th Air Ambulance Company (Nevada and New Mexico Army National Guard), Task Force Dragon, knew there was a possibility of being deployed when he joined the Guard. He just didn't count on waiting this long for it to happen.

"I love what I do (in the Guard), so I don't mind being here," he said of his unit's activation in October. "Prior to being deployed to Kosovo, our missions consisted of weekend drills, annual training periods (15-days), and occasionally responding to state emergencies.

"The only downside to being a medevac pilot is the fact that most of our time is in a standby mode waiting for something to happen."

Recalling a mission that wasn't training oriented, Smyrski said he had just begun his career as a pilot when an incident occurred one year during the unit's annual training mission.

"That was an unfortunate incident," he said. "We were performing annual training during Roving Sands when we received a call that some German soldiers were hurt during the exercise. We had to medevac them to the nearest hospital. Being involved in a situation like that made me realize the importance of our mission."

However, there are positives.

"For me personally, this has been a great opportunity to hone my

piloting skills and learn more about my unit members from New Mexico. I love being in the Guard."

That's evident when you consider that the 18-year Guard veteran splits his time as a patrolman with the California Highway Patrol in the city of Riverside and with his aviation unit, which is located more than 520 miles away.

"I could have opted to transfer to another unit closer to where I live, but I really enjoy the 717th. The members of my unit are like family to me. I enlisted in the Guard at the age of 18 to pay for my college education. I was initially a flight medic, with the goal that I would be an (aviator) one day. Choosing the Warrant Officer program was the best way to pursue my dream," he said of having graduated from the U.S. Army's Aviation School at Fort Rucker, Ala., in 1993.

Smyrski said his affection for flying began when he was a youngster growing up in Minnesota.

"I had paper airplanes and model helicopters everywhere in my room. My older brother also had ambitions of flying, so we both shared the same dreams. My brother beat me to the punch. He was an active duty instructor pilot at Fort Rucker, so that only inspired me to become a pilot. It did take me longer to get to this point in my career, but there is no where I would rather be," Smyrski said as he took a break from a joint medevac exercise with the POLURKBAT (Polish and Ukrainian armies) soldiers at their base camp located in the Multinational Brigade (East) sector during the first week of February.

Of flying his rotary winged aircraft on a regular basis in Kosovo, which averages out between 90 to 120 hours per month, Smyrski's eyes light up.

"I get a shot of adrenaline when I am up there flying. I like the fact that I



Staff Sgt. Michael McCord/photo

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Paul Smyrski loves being a pilot in the Army National Guard.

am in control of the situation. There is no place that I would rather be," he said.

Comparing his career in the California Patrol to being a part time (M-day) soldier in the Guard, he said both occupations require making spur of the moment decisions.

"Flying and law enforcement have taught me to be more patient. Both

require making decisions instantaneously. Also, both are similar in the fact that they have a structure system in place. My ultimate goal is to be a pilot in the California Highway Patrol. Until then, I will enjoy the opportunities I have flying here and back in the Nevada Army National Guard."

### TFF Deputy Commander CMO

## Reflecting on African-American heroes of the Vietnam War



Col. Lawrence Saul

In my previous article, I wrote of great African-American heroes of the American Revolution. In this issue I want to introduce you to

more contemporary heroes. As a veteran of the war in Vietnam, I feel a kinship with these great Americans.

By the time the U.S. was fully involved in the Vietnam War, the armed forces had been desegregated for nearly twenty years. The progress of two decades of advancement was clearly visible. On-base housing and dependent

schools, particularly in the southern states, were fully integrated and the Army society was making great strides in eradicating racism. Blacks had made tremendous progress in all aspects of the military profession, in terms of promotions to high ranks, in critical leadership positions and as role models for the hundreds of thousands of volunteers and draftees filling the growing legions of the Army.

As the war grew in intensity, beginning in late 1965, more and more U.S. formations engaged enemy units in large scale, fixed battles. The U.S. Army's elite 173rd Airborne Infantry Brigade was the first major formation to take the war to the enemy. In a series of clashes, the gung ho paratroopers inflicted significant defeats upon both the Viet Cong (VC) guerillas and regular troops of the North Vietnam Army (NVA). As more and more US divisions entered the fray, increasing numbers of Blacks were advancing to higher and higher positions and ranks. Three

African-Americans made history during the war. Their contributions and sacrifices are in keeping with the finest traditions of military service and serve to remind us of the higher calling all soldiers have answered.

Pfc. Milton L. Olive, a native of Chicago, enlisted in the Army in August 1964, after having attended Saints Junior College. He volunteered for both Infantry and Airborne training. He was assigned to B Co., 2nd Battalion, 503rd Airborne of the 173rd Brigade in May 1965. Pfc. Olive became the first enlisted man and first Black to earn the Medal of Honor since the Korean War when, on 22 October 1965 he sacrificed his own life to save the lives of three fellow soldiers. Pfc. Olive willingly and selflessly threw his body onto an enemy hand grenade that had been thrown into the midst of his platoon. Using his body to absorb the blast, PFC Milton saved the lives of his comrades. He was awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously for his "conspicuous

gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty".

As the war raged and the Army expanded, more and more Blacks were assuming leadership positions in vast numbers. Company command, critical for future advancement, was one position to which Blacks were routinely assigned. It was not unusual to find Black officers in other crucial positions. As upward mobility propelled young men to higher and higher positions of authority, they rose to meet the challenges. To the young grunt in the field, seeing successful Black officers was a sign of the changing times.

Capt. Riley Pitts, by all measures was a truly remarkable commander. Having entered the Army in 1960, through the Reserve Officer Training Corps program of the University of Wichita, Kansas, he served as an Infantry officer in CONUS and France prior to his tour in Vietnam. Capt. Pitts was the commanding officer of Co. C, (Please see COL SAUL, page 14)

## TF 1-32 commander is proud of his grunts' accomplishments during deployment

by Cpl. Taylor Barbaree  
Editor

CAMP MAGRATH— Lt. Col. Robert Nye, commander of 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment (Task Force 1-32 Inf. "Chosin"), is a modest person when discussing his successful 18-year career in the Army. However, when talking about his soldiers, he's an open book.

"(Former Army Chief of Staff) General (Dennis J.) Reimer once said soldiers are our credentials. I further that by believing that they are the reason for our existence as officers," Nye said during a recent interview at his unit's operating base near the municipality of Vitina/Viti. "It is my responsibility as their commander to ensure that as leaders we are not only leading them by setting the example, but taking care of them as well."

A former light infantryman, with a vast amount of experience in leading infantry elements at many different levels, (platoon, company, and battalion), Nye, age 41, said it wasn't his life-long dream to make the military a career. "I joined the Army after I received my undergraduate degree, because I wanted to do something different for a while," he said of his graduation from the University of Arizona at Tucson in 1983 in which he was enrolled in the ROTC program. "At that time I thought I would only be in for one tour. However, as my first assignment concluded, I decided to stay in the military because I enjoyed the challenges the Army presented."

"My initial goal was to only serve three years and then go back to



Cpl. Taylor Barbaree/photo

Lt. Col. Robert Nye, commander of 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment (Task Force 1-32 Inf. "Chosin"), center, talks with Pozharan/Pozaranje citizens after donating a garbage truck to the city in January.

college and earn an MBA. Ultimately, I wanted to work on Wall Street as an investor because that was where my interests were," he said. "I count my blessings every day that I chose to stay in the Army. This is a great organization with so many opportunities. Although it is every lieutenant's goal to lead a battalion, I never thought that I would have an opportunity," he said, modestly shifting the focus away from his personal thoughts to those of the more than 500 soldiers he leads on a daily basis.

"Until September 11th, this was probably one of the most visible missions the Army had. And even

though the focus has shifted, what my soldiers are doing here is important," he said of being in Kosovo. "This is a great mission, because we are still making a difference here. Every program we set up here is helping in some way."

One of those programs involving Nye and the soldiers of TF 1-32 Inf. "Chosin" that proved to be a successful venture was the recent donation of a fire truck and garbage truck to Vitina/Vita and the village of Pozharan/Pozaranje. The gifts not only improved garbage service and fire protection for the first time in history for the residents, but also gave former enemies a

stake in the betterment of Kosovo.

"Three years ago they were at war, now they are working together. That is a great sight," he said of the Albanian/Serbian residents that are employed with the Univerzal Company, which runs the garbage service near Camp Magrath. "Our soldiers are receiving a lot from this deployment as well. They are learning about another culture and that everything is not just the American way of life."

"Some of our soldiers have even learned some of the language and are interacting with the people well," he said. "That has given them a great sense of accomplishment."

Accomplishments aside, the husband and father of two, said this deployment has helped shape and hone their infantry skills.

"Some might argue that because we aren't fighting we're not performing a basic infantry mission. I believe differently. We conduct search operations everyday," he said. "We are constantly providing a safe and secure environment for the people of this area. While doing so, our soldiers are receiving (real world) training in a different environment, which I believe is the best type of training. Our battalion is allowed to think independently, as are our platoons and squads. Because of this freedom, our soldiers take a more active role in performing their jobs."

Summing up his feelings for the job his soldiers have done since arriving in November, Nye said, "Every little step we take here makes a difference. I am proud of them."

## Infantry NCO enjoys children and making a difference in Kosovo

by Cpl. Taylor Barbaree  
Editor

VRBOVAC, Kosovo— Master Sgt. "Big" Jay Hudson has a smile and personality that fits his nickname to perfection and draws children to him like a magnet.

"He is a magnet," said Sgt. 1st Class Andreas Gunther, 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment (Task Force 1-32 Inf. "Chosin"), civil affairs representative, about his friend's ability to attract children. "It has to be his demeanor. Children always swarm to him."

Hudson, who stands 6-foot-2 inches tall and weighs 225 pounds, is the NCOIC of TF 1-32 Inf. "Chosin" (10th Mountain Division), S-2 section. And while he is happy about the rapport he has with the children of Kosovo, he says that he can't remember how he came to be known as "Big Jay".

"The best I can remember is that someone (from my unit) made a comment about my height and weight one day and it has just stuck with me since then," he said, while on and adjoining mission with TFF's 951st TPT (Tactical PSYOP Team) in this Serbian Village recently. "As for as my relationship with children, I think that my ability to get on their level makes me more recognizable to them when I

come around."

Despite his towering appearance, which he is modest about, the 18-year Army Veteran said he enjoys being around other people as well as making friends.

"I grew up on a dairy farm in a town most people have probably never heard of," he said of his childhood in the agriculture town of Standish, Mich. "Our town's population is less than 10,000 so everyone knows everybody. That is why I am so people oriented."

Of his friendly relationship with children, Hudson said he could relate to them because he is a single parent. His daughter Blair, age 10, is presently



Cpl. Taylor Barbaree/photo

Master Sgt. "Big" Jay Hudson poses with new friend, 9-year-old Tanka Kriv Supak in the Serbian village of Vrbovac during a February mission.

living with her mother until he returns to Fort Drum sometime during May.

Hudson, an avid University of Michigan Wolverine fan, said he

compares the experiences of growing up on a farm to his life serving in the Army.

"Basically the work ethic is the same. You have to begin your day early when you live on a farm and in the Army. However, I chose this kind of life-style over farming because I wanted to see the world and get away from the hardships of farming," he said of his enlistment into military service in 1984. "I haven't regretted one minute of it. I like being an NCO, and I have enjoyed serving here in Kosovo."

"I know we are making a difference here. If we ever leave, I think things will take a turn for the worse again for these children and that would mean all the time and effort we have put in would have been wasted."

Since his missions usually involve intelligence gathering for Camp Magrath's TF 1-32 Inf. "Chosin", Hudson couldn't reveal details about his daily missions here. But the supervisor of six soldiers not only has the admiration of children, but his soldiers as well.

"He's a good supervisor because he takes an interest in us," said Pfc. Nicholas Butterworth, a member of Hudson's section. "That makes a difference. He takes time to talk with us and explains how things need to be done. He's also a good person."

# Soldiers of 10th LTF bring goodwill to Kusanjevo school

by Cpl. Taylor  
Barbaree  
Editor

KOSTANJEVO, Kosovo—Some people might deem a mission a success when they reach the friendly confines of Camp Bondsteel, and they see the rest of Kosovo in their rear view mirror.

However, for the soldiers of Fort Drum, N.Y.'s 10th Logistical Task Force (10th Mountain Division), evidence of a successful mission can't be judged from the rear, but instead by the smiles on the faces of children that attend school in this Serbian Village.

"This is a highlight for our soldiers as well as a good break to come here and interact with these children," said Command Sgt. Maj. Monty

McDaniel, 10th LTF command sergeant major on his unit's February 7th visit with the students of Rajko Uroshevich School. "They are always so happy when they see us pull up."

McDaniel said the 10th LTF's relationship with the 108-year old school, which is located on the mountaintop of Shar Plahiha near the municipality of Strpce, began shortly after Rotation 3B began.

"We wanted to sponsor a school so, with the help of Civil Affairs and UNMIK, we began searching and chose this one because this is the age group that we wanted to help. Our relationship with these children began in mid-November," McDaniel said. "This has been a great undertaking for us."

McDaniel noted that each time his soldiers make the two-hour roundtrip to the school, morale in the unit picks up.

"Soldiers come up to me all the time and ask me when the next trip is. I am really proud of our soldiers and the relationship we have built here. This is really



TFF Chaplain (Capt.) Bret Gilmore, center, carries a box inside Rajko Uroshevich School recently. The 10th LTF (10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, N.Y.) donated clothing and other supplies to the Serbian School located in Kusanjevo.

what this mission is about...helping others. I think doing something like this also helps the soldiers understand why we are here."

After arriving mid-afternoon, most of the school's students (180 total), ages 6-14, were eagerly anticipating the items being brought by their new friends in BDU's and driving HMMWVs.

"This is great," said Spc. Esmeralda Jimenez, an engineer mechanic with B Co. (10th LTF), as she handed out clothes, toys, and supplies to children in the hallway of the three-room schoolhouse. "I really enjoy being around these children."

As 13-year-old Stojkovich Marija made her way from the receiving line in the school's hallway, clutching a ream of construction paper, her facial expressions alone displayed a gratitude of appreciation.

McDaniel said items being distributed were compliments of fellow New Yorkers.

"I ran an ad in a Syracuse paper, and the response was overwhelming," McDaniel said. "We

obviously couldn't do it without the great support that we have received. We really appreciate it.

"This is our third trip to this school," McDaniel said. "During Christmas we handed out more than 400 presents to these children. So we are glad to follow up today. Before we leave in May, we hope to have the electricity up and running, and we also want to put up a new fence around the school to keep the livestock off of the school grounds."

Visiting with the soldiers of the 10th LTF's Alpha and Bravo companies were guests from Fort Drum and the nearby village of Black River, N.Y.

"This is a great experience," said Col. Becky Halstead, commander, 10th Mountain

Division Support Command, who visited with soldiers from Fort Drum during the second week of February.

"I am going to go back and let the families of these soldiers know what took place here today. I have taken several photos, and I want to share this with them. This will make the families even more proud of what their soldiers are doing here. This whole experience has given me 20 years of energy."

Doris Gorham, a principal of Alexandria Central (Elementary) School in Alexandria Bay, N.Y., and the mayor of the village of Black River, was also impressed with the relationships that had been established by the 10th LTF.

"This is all so overwhelming," she said, as she handed out pamphlets of information containing student names at her school so that students at Rajko Uroshevich School could become pen pals. "This is a wonderful thing that the 10th LTF is doing. I think that if we start with the children there is really hope."

## TFF members put their best foot forward with shoe give away

by Sgt. Jamie Brown  
Senior Editor

FERIZAJ/UROSEVAC, Kosovo—Their little eyes gleamed with joy as they took the packages. Although these gifts will be used every day by these children, they were not ordinary. Through the efforts of Task Force Falcon members, these children will probably remember this day every time they put on their shoes.

Almost 40 children from the Ali Hadri School in Mirash, (1-8<sup>th</sup> grades) received new shoes on Feb. 7. The shoe giveaway was the culmination of the efforts of several members of Task Force Falcon.

Commander Robin Brown, forward commander Defense Contingency Support Team, Navy, (Columbus, Ohio) from Camp Bondsteel helped the effort.

"We've been corresponding with various donors in the United States, through the adopt a platoon program, which is a web site," Brown said. "I registered on that web site, and I got a number for Mr. Larry Davis, from the Bethia United Methodist Church in Chesterfield, Va., and he had a youth fellowship group that wanted to donate, and they were originally going to send us some sporting equipment, and then we got them interested in sending some books, and used clothes. So far they've sent about two tons of stuff."



Sgt. Jamie Brown/photo Children from the Ali Hadri School inspect their new shoes. The shoes were given to them through the coordination of TFF members.

During his coordination with the church in the U.S., and the school in Kosovo, Brown noticed something that he thought could be done for these children.

"I noted that a lot of these kids didn't have shoes,"

Brown said. "It was getting cold. It was around 50 degrees and some of these kids were running around in bare feet. I told him (Davis), and they decided that they would collect some money and buy shoes."

Rather than having shoes sent here from the U.S., Brown decided it would be better to get the shoes in Kosovo.

"Then we got the idea that it would be a lot more cost efficient if we could buy the shoes over here, plus we could buy shoes that fit them and shoes that suited their needs," Brown said. "He (Davis) sent us the money, and through working with the school we ended up out here. This school is our assigned school that we support, and we've done a number of projects for them. Most of it was painting, and supplying playground equipment and building a new fence around the school, but that's all warm weather kind of stuff. So we were looking for a project for the winter, and it turned out to be Christmas donations and the shoe program. It's taken about two months to gather the money and get the money over here, and then have them out here today and making a purchase.

As the children waited to try on their new shoes, in an open square in Ferizaj, they played, laughed and crowded around servicemembers.

"What we're doing right now is we are waiting for the vendor," said Brown. "The shop can only fit about four people (Please see SHOES, page 7)



# Fort Benning's TF 1-30 leaves imprint with local schools

by Spc. Molly Jones  
Staff Writer

STUBLINA, Kosovo—First Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment (TF 1-30) plans to leave an impression on the children of Kosovo, one that will last, even after these soldiers have returned home to Fort Benning, Ga.

Lt. Col Audy Snodgrass, the battalion commander, "got the idea going of the school program, and I think it was just ingenious," said Capt. Scott Anderson, commander of Company A, 1-30.

Anderson has nine schools within his sector, and he divides them up into three areas of responsibility for his three platoons. "Each platoon will get the chance to go to every school. That gives the kids a chance to be exposed to all of my soldiers, as well as the soldiers to all of the kids," said Anderson.

The schools range from the largest, having about 400 students, down to a few that only have about 20 students. "We go to each school every other week: five one week and four the next. I'd like to go to all nine every week, but that's very hard to do," Anderson explained.

A curriculum has been put together that will carry them through the rotation, but it is just a basic guide for the platoons to come up with some of their own ideas. "We focus on English and some kind of activity. The main thing is to stay



First Lt. Brian Huskey, a platoon guide in A Co., TF 1-30, has a little fun passing out supplies to the students at a school in Stublina.

Spc. Molly Jones/photo

engaged and to interact with the kids," Anderson said.

"We ask the soldiers to do a lot over here, so when they're at the schools, it is not like work, but rather time off. They get a chance to be kids again themselves."

Anderson feels that it is very important to be present at the schools, as often as possible so the children can look at him and his soldiers and know that a KFOR soldier is someone they can trust, and come to, if they need help.

Recently Anderson and a few of his platoon leaders had the

opportunity to give the children at their school in Stublina, near the Serbian border, brand new school supplies that were donated by a church in Tennessee, Anderson's home state.

"You know, Americans are all so generous. So many have heard that we were in need of school supplies, and have been more than happy to send things over," Anderson said.

Anderson loves witnessing the sheer joy that comes over each child's face when they have received their new items. "Although we are here to provide a safe and secure environment, and are doing much political good, putting a smile on a kid's face by giving them a new notebook and backpack, makes the whole six months worthwhile," he said.

The children of all the schools love that they are getting attention from KFOR. "Kids are kids no matter where you go, and they just want some attention. They respond so positively to that, and that's one thing we are here for, to leave a positive and lasting impression on these children, the future of Kosovo," Anderson explained.

"We could come over here and do the same thing rotation after rotation with patrols and check points, although it's all necessary and good to do, I rather enjoy knowing that the 1st of the 30th has left a legacy here with the children.

At they are all so innocent, and childhood only comes once. Some of these kids have been exposed to horrors we can't imagine, and if we can bring some of that innocence back and let them be kids, then I feel like we've accomplished something."

(VISIT continued from page 1)

textbooks, but the example that the adults, the teachers show them on a day-to-day basis, that you can work together with different ethnic backgrounds. I am here to say thank you, and ask you to continue down this path of tolerance."

After meeting with the teachers, Huber discussed what could be done to help repair the school, with the town's Albanian and Serbian mayors. Both of them said they were glad that Huber had visited their community, and the school in particular.

"I'm very thankful that the general took the time to come over here, and talk to the people here," said Alexander Ristic, the Serbian mayor of Ponesh/Pones.

"I'm glad he showed up today," said Milaim Shala, the Albanian mayor of Ponesh/Pones. "From what he promised, it sounds good. Whatever he can do within his power."

When he reflected on the visit, Huber agreed that it had been beneficial.

"As I had the privilege to talk to the Mayors, the school directors, all the teachers, then all the

children, the theme that I hit home was, this is the first school I have visited," Huber said. "And the reason I am here is because this is a great example of the future of Kosovo, where you have Serbian and Albanian children in the same building, at the same time, albeit in different classrooms, because their curriculum is different. This is an example of tolerance. And you have Albanian and Serbian professors teaching in the same school.

This is the future. These are the lessons that the children will learn, not only the lessons out of the school-books, but also the lessons of the examples that their teachers set: That education should be available to all people, regardless of ethnicity, and that a democratic society gains its' strength from its' diversity, and the tolerance of people with different backgrounds. I thought it was a tremendous visit."

(SHOES continued from page 6)

in it, he's got all the shoes at a warehouse. We're waiting on him to go to his warehouse to get enough shoes so that he has a selection of sizes. They're all getting, basically that same style of shoe, that's what we negotiated on, one shoe at one low price, because we're buying so many. We're here, because there is enough room for them to spread out, sit down and try on the shoes."

After patiently waiting, each child got to try on his or her new pair of shoes. After making sure the shoes fit, the children put the shoes back in a bag to take back to the school. The children smiled and continually looked with pride at their new shoes. The servicemembers, who coordinated the effort, also felt pride for what they helped do for the children here.

"It makes me feel great, because it gives us an opportunity to touch the youth, because they are the ones who are going to be coming up soon," said Maj. Patricia Edwards, operations officer Defense

Logistics Agency (DLA) Army Reserve out of Philadelphia, Pa. "Hopefully this effort will teach them more humanitarian efforts within their own community."

"It gives me a feeling of accomplishment and warmth to deal with the kids," said Brown. "This school is from a very needy area. It's a rural school, and the kids don't have a lot of money. It gives us a very warm feeling to be able to work with them."

But the most important judge of all, the ones who will be wearing these gifts every day, are the kids. If their smiles were any indication of how the day went, this day was a success.

"I am glad to have new shoes," said 12-year-old Ilmi Rifati. "I like them very much."



We'll be coming around the mountain...

ASG (P) Falcon's Directorate of Public Works Office (DPW) at Camp Bondsteel went to great lengths recently to deliver some much needed items to students at Izance Elementary School. The Albanian school nestled on a mountaintop near the village town of Koshtanjeve, was not accessible by vehicle the day DPW members (comprised of DoD civilians and U.S. Army Reservists of Fort Worth, Texas' 416th Engineer Team) were scheduled to deliver the items to students. So enlisting the help from some locals, they were able to make their delivery of wood burning stoves, typewriters and recreation equipment. Money to purchase the equipment came from the Fellowship Sunday School Class of the First United Methodist Church of Richardson, Texas. Pictured behind the horse and wagon are Maj. Joe Ebert, Master Sgt. Stephen Healy, Sam McGee and Niam Preniqi (photo and caption by Sgt. 1st Class (P) Michael Callahan/416th Engineer Team).

## ***The Best of Combat Camera:***

*This is a regular section of the Falcon Flier which features some of the best work of Combat Camera.*

*Special thanks to Combat Camera (55th Signal Company, Fort Meade, Md.) for submitting these photos.*



*Spc. Robin Quander/photo*

A PFC front-end loader dumps gravel into barriers on Jan. 18. The 27th Combat Engineer Bn. Charlie Co. are building HESCO barriers at the Civilian Police station in the town of Kamenica, Kosovo. The 27th Engineer Bn. are from Fort Bragg, N.C.



*Spc. David Yancey/photo*

First Lieutenant Kristopher Skinner from A Co., 2/14 Infantry Battalion, coordinates the efforts of Operation Iron Fist II on Jan. 22 in Klobukar, Kosovo. Operation Iron Fist II included a perimeter search of the village and a Medical Civilian Assistance Program (MEDCAP).

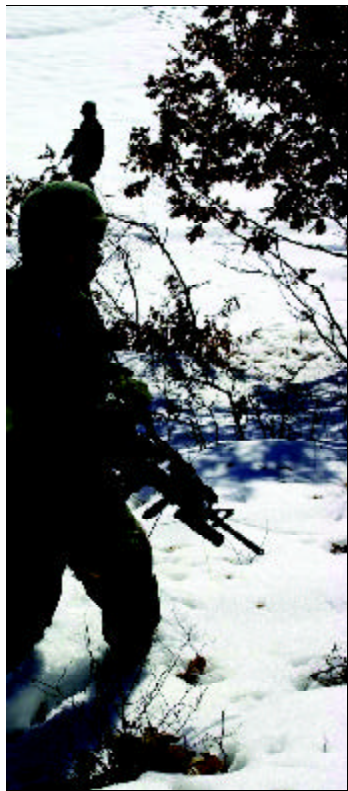


*Staff Sgt. Ernest Rodriguez leads soldiers from A Co. a perimeter search around the village of Klobukar, caches as part of Operation Iron Fist II which also Assistance Program (MEDCAP). The Operation too*



*Pfc. Sean Calhoun stands guard on a landing at th Kamenica, Kosovo on Jan. 18th. Calhoun is a meml Personal Security Detail in Kosovo providing secu*





*Spc. David Yancey/photo*

Soldiers from A Co., 2/14th Infantry Battalion in the village of Klobukar, Kosovo, search for illegal weapons during Joint Guardian II which also included a Medical Civilian Operation took place on Jan. 22, 2002.



*Spc. Robin Quander/photo*

A soldier is seen landing at the civilian police station in Pristina. The soldier is a member of the Task Force Falcon providing security for Col. Bryan Stephens.



*Spc. Robin Quander/photo*

Cpl. Tim Haas, 27th Combat Engineer Battalion, Charlie Company, is willingly wrestled into submission by a young student in Komogllave, Kosovo on February 1. Haas is in Kosovo as part of the peace keeping operation, Joint Guardian II.



*Spc. Robin Quander/photo*

Cpl. Tim Haas, 27th Combat Engineer Battalion, Charlie Company, gives away toys and school supplies to local children in Komogllave, Kosovo on February 1.



*Spc. Michael Barranti/photo*

Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regt. (10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, N.Y.), return from a road march around Camp McGrath, Kosovo on February 7th.

# Real Time Check Cashing Comes to Kosovo!

by Capt. David L. Gardner  
10th Soldier Support Battalion

The Military Paper Check Conversion Pilot Program (MPCC) is in Kosovo. The purpose of the pilot is to convert personal paper checks into electronic funds transfer (EFT) debit transactions against the check writer's account.

The process is more efficient than current procedures. Traditional paper check processing requires up to twelve people handling the check from the moment it is introduced into the collection system until it is paid, creating a lengthy logistical process. Applying the MPCC process at the point of check acceptance eliminates most manual handling and speeds the collection of funds. As a result, customers' checks are cleared within 24 hours.

The process of cashing a check will

change significantly. The conversion process begins with a cashier scanning a check into a check terminal scanner. After scanning the check, the cashier keys in the dollar amount, Social Security Number, and check number into the personal computer (PC) connected to the scanner. The tangible benefits of MPCC are realized by a reduction in administrative work involved in control and management, as well as in the collection of checks written for insufficient funds. Additionally, check writers can better manage their accounts because the debit is processed within 24 hours.

Floaters Beware! The process eliminates the time from check writing to check clearing the bank. Check writers can no longer "float" checks. The Disbursing Officer is able to deny transactions to check writers who have previously written a check for insufficient funds.

## New DoD system allows servicemembers opportunity to visit pay accounts on-line

by Capt. David L. Gardner  
10th Soldier Support Battalion

The Employee/Member Self Service (E/MSS) allows Department of Defense (DoD) to access their pay accounts online 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. E/MSS allows users to review or make changes to their Federal tax information, financial allotments, home or correspondence address, and direct deposit or electronic funds transfer (EFT) information.

One benefit of E/MSS is the ability for all users to view and print their LES online. E/MSS can display the

current plus prior two LESs. In most cases, the electronic LES will be available up to two days prior to the pay date. E/MSS eliminates the long wait for the Leave and Earnings Statement (LES) to see that an action was processed. Operating in a near real-time environment, E/MSS allows users to go back into the system a few days later and actually see that their payroll record has been updated. DoD employees and military members must have a Personal Identification Number (PIN) to use E/MSS.

Visit the Finance Office or the DFAS home page at [www.dfas.mil/emss](http://www.dfas.mil/emss).

# Finally some answers to your tax questions

by Pfc. Tiffanie Tribble  
TFF Legal Office

When I was first told I had to file a tax return with the I.R.S. I immediately pictured people dressed in dark clothing, coming to sell all of my prized possessions and selling my home to the highest bidder. I became so terrified by this nightmare I created in my mind, that I had become overwhelmed and intimidated at the thought of filing a return on my own.

Tax season can certainly be a frustrating time, and even more so for many of the younger soldiers, who may be filing a return for the first time. How do you figure out how much income you have earned, what types of income to report, which forms to use, or even if you have to file a return in the first place! There are answers out there. The Tax Center, Bldg 1340A in the Legal Assistance Office, located at Camp Bondsteel, is equipped with trained tax volunteers, and plenty of resources to get answers to your questions. Each unit has an officer at each of its company levels that were designated as your first point of contact for any questions that you have, and insure that you have all the paperwork necessary to file a return at the Tax Center. The following are answers to some commonly asked questions to get you started.

### Q: Who must file taxes?

A: To determine whether or not you must file a return, use the chart below. First find your filing status at the end of 2001, if your gross income (all taxable income in the form of money, goods, property, and services, even if earned outside the United States) is equal to or more than the amount shown for your status, then you must file a return.

### Q: What is my filing status?

A: Each filing status is listed in the chart on the right. It is crucial that you understand and choose the correct filing status. Each status is taxed differently. To insure that you are not paying unnecessary taxes, please read the following carefully:

You (the taxpayer) are considered to meet the qualifications of each filing status if on the last day of the year the either of the following bullets applies.

#### 1. Single.

-You were never married.

-You were legally separated, according to state law, under a decree of divorce or separate maintenance.

#### 2. Married filing a joint return.

-Married and live together as husband and wife.

-Live together in a common law marriage recognized in by the state the where you now live or where the marriage began.

-Married and live apart but are not legally separated.

-Separated under a under a interlocutory (not final) divorce decree.

-Spouse died during the year and you have not remarried.

#### 3. Married filing a separate return.

(Taxpayers can choose to file separate return even if one spouse has no income)

#### 4. Head of Household

You must be single (divorced, or legally separated)\* and have paid more than half the expenditures necessary to upkeep a home, if it is considered to be the main home. (If you are married with dependent children, you may also be able to file under the head of household status). \*

#### 5. Qualifying Widow(er) with Dependent Children

In order to file under this status, your spouse must have during 1999 or 2000 and you have not remarried before the last day of 2001, and would have been entitled to file a joint return for the year of the spouses' death and have a child that qualifies as your dependent for the year.

You must also have contributed more than half

Filing Status	You must file a return if your gross income was at least:
Single	\$7,450
Married filing jointly	\$13,400
Married filing separately	\$2,900
Head of Household	\$9,500
Qualifying Widow(er) with dependent child	\$10,500

*This chart only applies to most people under the age of 65, who cannot be claimed as a dependent on another persons return.*

the cost of the upkeep of a home that the dependent child resided in the entire year.

### Q: Who can be claimed as a dependent?

A: Claiming someone as a dependent on your tax return entitles you to an exemption for that person, which lowers your taxable income. There are two types of exemptions: personal and dependent. The exemption amount for both is the same: \$2,900. However, different rules apply for each exemption.

You may claim the personal exemption for yourself, as long as you cannot be claimed as a dependent on someone else's return. In this case, you cannot claim the exemption for yourself, even if the person who could claim you does not exercise this right. You may also be able to claim your spouses' personal exemption. As long as your spouse cannot be claimed on someone else's return and you were married before the last day of the year. Your spouse can longer claim their own exemption even if they file a separate return.

To claim someone as a dependent you must answer these questions.

#### 1. Is she/he a member of my household?

This person must have lived with you the entire year or be of blood relation to you.

2. Was he/she for any part of the year, a U.S. citizen/resident or a resident of Canada or

Mexico?

A child is usually considered to be a resident of the country that the parent resides.

#### 3. Can he/she file a separate return?

You cannot file a joint return with this person only to claim a refund, if they could file separately and not incur any tax liability.

#### 4. How much gross income did he/she earn in 2001?

You cannot claim someone who grossed or exceeded the exemption amount.

#### 5. Did I provide more than half of his/her total support this year? \*

Compare your total contributions to the entire amount of support he/she received from all sources. If you provided more than half of the total support, and you met all the previous requirements, then you may claim this person as a dependent.

### Where can I find more information?

[www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) is overflowing with information, as well as the current years federal and state tax forms and instructions.

The Tax Center will begin providing simple tax services, to include E-filing, beginning February 4, 2002. Clients will be seen by appointment only. The Tax Center will close on April 15th so plan to come in early and avoid the rush.

\* Special restrictions apply.



## TF 1-32 Infantry "Chosin" perform MEDCAP in Letnica

by Staff Sgt. Michael McCord  
Press Section NCOIC

LETNICA, Kosovo—This picturesque village lies close to the southeast corner of Kosovo. Surrounded by a jutting mountain range, Letnica is an isolated village with vestiges of the past still weaved through the fabric of everyday life. Cattle are tied to a nearby split-rail fence. Horse drawn wagons clomp through the streets, carrying men and women bearing the fruits of their labor. Children laugh and play as market day commences. Old men huddle together and lament their daily lives while smoking their ever-present cigarettes.

The stark beauty of the area with its bygone architecture is also its liability. Health care is hard to come by. KFOR was here on this day to do something about it.

A modern version of a wagon train rolled into Letnica on a cold but sun-washed afternoon. Personnel of 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment (Task Force 1-32 Infantry "Chosin") Fort Drum, N.Y., set up camp in a clean, but unheated room to offer basic medical care to these hardy citizens. In Army talk, it's a MEDCAP. A Medical Civilian Assistance Program designed to provide basic health care needs to those who don't have access to it.

"What we're here to do is to provide basic medical care and treatment for people that don't have it available," said 1st Lt. Timothy Zerbe, 1-32nd Inf. Div. "This town has no ambulatory or health house and they'd have to travel at least 35 minutes to an hour to get any health care at all," Zerbe said. "We usually set up for three hours or until everyone has been seen," he said.

The health clinic set up shop in two sparsely furnished rooms near the center of town. Even with the bright sunshine outside, the waiting patient's breath, visible as a vapor escaping from their nostrils was proof of the cold temperature inside. Utilizing the few chairs, small table, and the available daylight, the doctor began to see



Maj. Kevin Downes, TFMF physician, examines a young boy in the village of Letnica, during a recent MEDCAP. Staff Sgt. Michael P. McCord/photo

patients.

"We have two doctors; a physician and a PA, (Physician's Assistant) to see the patients," said Zerbe. He anticipated the team seeing 80 to 100 people on this day.

While seeing patients, members of the Fort Drum unit do something more. They sit and listen to the citizens. They talk about such things as the monetary transition from the DM to the Euro. "A lot of people are isolated in border towns like Letnica and it's hard to put out information sometimes," said Zerbe. "Word of mouth doesn't always cover it," he said.

The older women of the village wait their turn in the few chairs available while the doctor examines a young child. He listens to the breathing of the little boy. His stethoscope placed on the youngster's chest. He smiles at the boy and issues an assessment of his condition to the mother who holds him. The translator, Sylvia Pajazit, explains the doctor's instructions for the medicine he's prescribed for the tot. Another patient, Anjilina Dergi, 67, who lives in nearby Stuballa, has experienced a

MEDCAP before. "I have been seen by KFOR once before," she said. "It's very good that they're here."

"She has three living children," explained translator Pajazit. "She had many more but they died. She says she has lived in Stuballa all her life."

Maj. Kevin Downes, Physician, Task Force Falcon, HHC, 1-32nd Inf. Div., and stationed at Camp Magrath, said, "I see a lot of chronic problems, such as arthritis and we see a lot of upper respiratory tract infections in the children. We also see quite a few cases of scabies."

When the patient requires a medicine, the doctor scribes a note and has the translator explain what it is the patient has been prescribed.

The rolling pharmacist is posted in a medevac ambulance just outside the location. Two men are sitting beside dark green lockers of pills and ointments. Medical Specialist, Sgt. Conway Halladay, and a translator comprise the pharmacy team. A member of HHC, TF 1-32nd Inf. "Chosin", Halladay also dispensed something else and a whole lot more fun—lollipops. They gave them out to everyone who approached the rear of the ambulance.

"I think we're doing a good thing for the people of the community here. A lot of these people don't get the opportunity to get to see a doctor or go to a hospital, and even if they do, it's quite a way's from their villages," Halladay said. "So we come out here and hand out the medicines and see the people. We've had a very good response and a good attitude from these people."

Thanks to the caring efforts of the "Chosin" ones, the townspeople of Letnica might rest a bit easier on this night.

## Soldiers work closely with French counterparts during rotation at Camp Belvedere

by Sgt. Jamie Brown  
Senior Editor

MITROVICA/MITROVICE, Kosovo—Living on a panoramic hillside, American KFOR soldiers here at Camp Belvedere have enjoyed a change in scenery, and a chance to work with their French counterparts.

The soldiers were here as part of a three-week rotation, which allowed them to serve with the French soldiers who are stationed here. The rotation also allowed them to perform their mission in an unfamiliar environment. This small American contingent consisted of members of (10th Mountain Division's) Charlie and (a platoon from) Alpha companies of 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment (TF 1-32 Infantry "Chosin"), a platoon from A Co. 27th Combat Engineers (Fort Bragg, N.C.), and several Signal and Military Intelligence soldiers.

"We've been doing presence patrols in the town of Mitrovica/Mitrovice," said Spc. Daniel Carson, A Co. 27th Eng. Bn. (Fort Bragg, N.C.). "We walk around the town, and people are very friendly. We're looking for weapons, and any suspicious activity. We put up checkpoints and check random cars."

Although the mission is similar, there are some differences.

"Our primary mission isn't that much different than in Vitina/Viti and Vrbovac/Vrboc, and that's providing presence patrols and maintaining a safe and secure environment," said Capt. Tom Piaget, company commander for C Co. 1-32 Inf.



Sgt. Jamie Brown/photo

Soldiers from C Co. 1-32 Inf. prepare to go on patrol in the town of Mitrovica/Mitrovice. Pictured from left to right are: Pfc. Paul Zundel, Pfc. Joshua Smith, Pvt. Jared Maglione and Cpl. Gabriel Castillo.

"The one additional task we have is to show that multi-national organizations are able to work together effectively in a peaceful manner. We also are going to show, from our perspective, the professionalism of the United States Army."

"This isn't a regular deal. It's not a standard rotation," said 1st Sgt. Andrew King, C Co. 1-32 Inf. "This is a new trial deal to get two different NATO forces to work together."

The Americans replaced Danish troops, who had served with the French here, and when they leave, a Scottish

unit will come in. Several soldiers agreed that their opportunity to work with the French has been beneficial.

"It's gone real well with the French," said Piaget. "Our relationship with them warmed up quickly. Our soldiers are mixing with their soldiers, and talk with them in their PX, for instance. The officers eat with their officers on a regular basis. They ask us lots of questions, and we ask them lots of questions. It's been a great experience."

"It's worked out great so far," said King. "I had a luncheon with some of the French senior NCOs yesterday, and it was excellent. They have been very cooperative. It's definitely been worthwhile, just to see how the French soldiers operate, and for them to see how we operate, and just to experience the other side of the fence."

"The French guys are pretty cool. They trade us flashes and stuff from the berets. It's nice working with them," said Pfc. David Ciers, A Co. TF 1-32 Inf. "Chosin".

Besides getting a chance to work with their French counterparts, several of the soldiers have enjoyed working in a different environment.

"The change of environment that we're patrolling in has been very positive as well," said Piaget. "It's been a good learning experience. It's been very worthwhile. I've learned things here from other soldiers and other units, the French, and as well as patrolling downtown, that I'm able to take back. That's going to make us that much more effective. It's good to see something else."

(Please see CAMP BELVEDERE, page 15)



*Airing your dirty laundry...*

## Brown and Root facility handles all laundry for U.S. KFOR soldiers

*Editor's note:*  
The following article, by Falcon Flier staff writer and webmaster Spc. Terry Boggs, is written from a customer's perspective.

by Spc. Terry Boggs  
Staff Writer

BROWN & ROOT COMMERCIAL LAUNDRY FACILITY (Ferizaj/Urosevac)—In a deployment situation, one of the most unavoidable things you will encounter is a rumor. When you get thousands of people cramped together, especially with a bit of free time on their hands, people will talk, and gossip will fly. Rumors from unseen sources, spread like wildfire throughout KFOR and beyond.

One of these rumors came my way one day, and I didn't think much of it, until I heard it a second time, and again. It was like any other dirt about anybody; it had no origin, and was rather negative. But this rumor was different. It was about something that affected all U.S. soldiers in Kosovo.

The subject of this rumor was our laundry, and whether or not soap was actually being used when it is washed.

Normally I would have dismissed such talk as ridiculous, but apparently some of the people in my department also heard the same thing, and I was consequently nominated to go find out if the rumor was true.

The "scandal" was thus labeled "Soapgate".

My first act was to try to contact the source on the phone, get a few quotes, and have it be done with. After speaking with a couple of Brown and Root employees, however, I quickly learned it would be easier to go and view the facility than to try to get a good quote for my story. So I made the necessary calls and arranged a meeting at the Brown and Root facility in Ferizaj.

We arrived and met John Martinez, the Brown and Root Logistics Coordina-

tor. He took us on a rather extensive tour of the laundry facility, during which I offered a spackling of questions designed to quell the fears that have abounded here about the laundry service.

The name of the facility was simply the Brown and Root Community Laundry. And although it carries the name of Brown and Root, it is actually contracted by the U.S. government. I tried to get more info on who actually owns it, but became more confused and left it alone.

The laundry employs about 150 local citizens and U.S. residents; working 24/7 on 12-hour shifts. They average about 1,200 bags of laundry per day, and operate 107 washers and 119 driers. In other words, the place was huge.

According to Martinez, they do the laundry for all of the U.S. soldiers, and the Brown and Root employees.

He walked me through the entire process. First the clothes are brought in by truck and put into large bins. The bins are rolled over to a bag check and counted. They are thoroughly inventoried and placed by the washers. The ladies at the washers remove the clothes from the bags and inventory them. They compare the contents of the bags to the inventory sheets inside of them. Any discrep-

ancies are reported on a form, and sent back to the customer. Of course, they still wash the clothes that are there.

Some of the clothes are sorted into colors and whites. If the size of the load warrants separation, then they are sorted. If not, the clothes get placed in one washer per bag. (I had heard it said that they wash all of our clothes together in one big washer. This is not at all true.)

The clothes are then placed in the washer and soap is added. The soap is a generic, government laundry detergent, PD-245, AM 1, Type I and is made by the GSA. One load of laundry, regardless of the size, receives three ounces of this soap. The water is purified at the Brown and Root facility close by, and is, according to Martinez, 100 percent soft. It is also 100 percent cold. That's right; they do not use hot water on our clothes.

From the washer, the clothes then get inventoried again, placed into a bin and taken to the drier. The drying process is like any other, hot and fast. The load is taken from the drier and inventoried. Again.

Once dry, the clothes continue their journey to the folding table, where, you guessed it; they are counted again. They are then folded neatly and counted one more time

by a supervisor. The trek ends back where it began, in the back of the truck coming back to base.

If you count the number of times the clothes are counted, it comes out to a total of six. It seems like overkill, until you take into consideration the number of pieces they have lost.

And what is that number? Zero in the past year, according to Martinez. That's not bad. I can't even go a week without losing a sock in my laundry.

As far as quality, he also added that he himself uses the service and is very pleased with it.

Of course, with this many people being serviced, not everybody will be that pleased. For those who wish to submit comments or suggestions, use the blue cards located

in the laundry checkpoints. When you fill them out, make sure you put your name and phone number so somebody can contact you if needed. John Martinez assured me the cards, which are read at the Brown and Root company by Quality Control/Quality Assurance people, are taken very seriously.

If you feel that your comments are not being taken seriously, or if you are still dissatisfied, there is one more person you may contact. Her name is Cheryl Lang and she is the Brown and Root Lead Quality person. She can listen to your concerns not only about laundry, but about anything else they do as well. Her DSN line is 781-3407 and she is listed in the Global.

Well as far as I am concerned, Soapgate is now a shut and sealed case. Brown and Root has once again come out on top, proving once again their ability to provide our soldiers superior service and quality results. The best part is that it's all included in your peacekeeping experience, free of charge.

So let the gossip fly. But as far as this writer is concerned, the laundry issue has been deemed 'clean'.



Spc. Terry Boggs/photo

Workers at the Brown and Root Commercial Laundry Facility go through clothes at the many washers and driers there. All loads are thoroughly inventoried during the entire process, and afterward as well. The facility claims to have not lost a piece of clothing in the past year.

## Eugene "Mercury" Morris visits with troops at Camp Monteith on Super Bowl Sunday

by Spc. Bill Putnam  
Staff Writer

CAMP MONTEITH—NFL great, Eugene "Mercury" Morris, stopped here to watch the "big game" with about 100 soldiers who braved the late hours. The former Miami Dolphin standout signed autographs, and talked to soldiers who thanked him for his visit.

During commercial breaks in the game's second half, Morris asked the crowd trivia questions. He said, in between questions, that his brief trip here has been something he'll write about when he goes home to South Florida.

"What I saw after coming here, I saw on CNN," he said. "Now I'm seeing it with my own eyes."

To Morris, the situation here in Kosovo is still "like the wild west" with soldiers walking around with weapons, and with the province's current condition.

"It's an amazing thing to see what the Army's trying to do for these people," he said.

Morris didn't have a preference as to what team won the game. But he did say about halfway through the third quarter, if he had to pick a winner, it would be New England.

"I hope (they) win," Morris said. "Just for the simple idea that you can beat any team on any given Sunday."

He said the Patriots underdog status gave them more heart to beat the Rams. He drew a parallel between the 1972 Miami Dolphins, and the present

day Patriots. Everyone gave the Dolphins the underdog label before that season.

"We won 16 straight games, and they said we wouldn't win another," he said. "But we did."

As it turned out, Morris was right. The Patriots did win and pulled off one of the biggest upsets in Super Bowl History.



Spc. Bill Putnam/photo

NFL great Eugene "Mercury" Morris, asks a trivia question during a break-in the action of Super Bowl XXXVI.

# POLURKBAT troops train with U.S. Army during exercise

by Staff Sgt. Michael McCord  
Press Section NCOIC

**CAMP WHITE EAGLE**—The receding snow was a mixture of ice and mud. The boots of the soldiers collected it in layers as they made way to the landing zone. Members of the POLURKBAT, soldiers from the Polish and Ukrainian armies were excited to participate in their first medevac exercise with U.S. Army Air Ambulance "Blackhawk".

They were here to learn, first-hand, the techniques and procedures used when evacuating injured soldiers or civilians.

Maj. Gvzejonz Stefanski, Chief of the POLURKBAT stationed here at Camp White Eagle, said, "This training is to increase our proficiency in medevac issues. We will learn how to load and unload injured soldiers on the helicopter, how to evacuate from minefields and heavy terrain between the trees. The terrain has many rocks and we train to be able to get help to the injured."

Approximately 40 soldiers of the POLURKBAT were involved with the exercise that involved a UH-60 medevac helicopter and its crewmembers from the 717th Air Ambulance Company (an element of the Nevada and New Mexico Army National Guard).

Staff Sgt. Saul Garcia, crew chief with the 717th Medevac Co., Detachment, Reno, Nev. was an instructor during the training that included personnel from 717th Headquarters Co. from Santa Fe, N. M. "We're teaching them techniques and procedures on how to operate around the UH-60," said Garcia. "We teach them to follow our directions and hand signals. While the



Staff Sgt. Michael McCord/photo  
POLURKBAT (Polish and Ukrainian) soldiers pose with members of the 717th Air Ambulance Co. after a recent medevac exercise at Camp White Eagle.

aircraft is running up, you can't hear. We show them the capabilities of our rescue hoist."

This is what the soldiers had been waiting for. They came to see the "jungle penetrator", and how it operated. The hoist looks like a big yellow anchor. Its tines unfold to become seats for up to three people. The device will hold up to 600 hundred pounds.

Safety around the spinning blades is of the utmost concern for the crewmembers. "Every time somebody's injured, those on the ground get in a rush and forget about the aircraft," said Garcia. "The aircraft is a big machine and you can get hurt around it if you don't understand and follow instructions from the crew."

While the crew explained, through translators, the methods they used to load litters on the aircraft, Master Sgt.

Paul Herd, SOCC liaison coordination element, here at Camp White Eagle, viewed the exercise behind all the action. His task is to coordinate such events with POLURKBAT, and the Task Force Falcon at Camp Bondsteel. "This was requested by the Polish troops and the task force is supplying the bird, (Blackhawk). 'It's essential to have this training, because the task force supports the entire brigade, and so it's not necessarily Americans who use this helicopter,'" Herd said.

While they have called in medical evacuations to transport civilians injured in automobile accidents, this is their first opportunity to learn the procedures from the crew that flies the chopper.

Maj. Victor Dobrovoskiy, commander of the Ukrainian soldiers supporting the POLURK battalion said, "We have participated in a real emer-

gency with an accident victim. We gave him first aid medical care and the helicopter came and took him to the hospital for further care. Speaking of this program of partnership with the POLURKBAT on medical training accreditation – it's very important, especially during recruiting and knowledge tests. We have language barriers to overcome in order to coordinate to save people's lives," he said.

One of the medics with the 717th explained his part of the instruction, "I teach them what to expect from me as a medic when we touch down," said Sgt. Oscar Esquivel, from the 717th's Santa Fe, unit. "I make sure the patient isn't loose on the stretcher and I make interventions if needed prior to loading."

The sergeants, Garcia and Esquivel demonstrated, in detail, just where the injured victim would be secured in the aircraft, and exactly what

position they needed to be in as they approached the helicopter.

The POLURKBAT's physician, Major Andrzej Papiernik offered his assessment of the ongoing training, "We have long waited for this day. This exercise will help us to empower our mission to a higher level. The equipment we have on our ambulance is now compatible with the medevac air crew's equipment. Our older equipment didn't work properly with theirs and so we're glad to train on this."

During a medical emergency, the difference is living and dying could be measured in minutes. Confusion creates a time lag.

Papiernik realizes the importance of getting it right the first time. "You have a short time to help injured soldiers and civilians," he said. "This will improve our proficiency."



Staff Sgt. Michael McCord/photo  
Spc. Peter Cole, 951 TPT, 9th PYSOPS Bn., greets townspeople of Vrbovac during a recent stop in their town to deliver the "Dialogue", a PSYOP publication designed to inform the villagers of KFOR operations.

by Staff Sgt. Michael McCord  
Press Section NCOIC

**VRBOVAC, Kosovo**—A physician diagnoses ill patients with the knowledge learned through extensive educational training and practice through experience. For the

## No smoke and mirrors here

# PSYOPs takes to streets to get job done

people of Kosovo who have been wracked with the pain and suffering of ethnic conflicts in recent years, there stands a doctor of sorts to help relieve their troubles; PSYOP.

The soldiers of the 951st Tactical PSYOP Team, Bravo Company, 9th PSYOP Battalion, Fort Bragg, N.C., make it their duty to make things better. Healing by listening, by rubbing the salve of open communications between the sore joints of short memories. The PSYOP team arrived here in this small town; a small village like hundreds in Kosovo, to listen

to the region's Serbian mayors during a meeting. "We listen to the meeting and we find little areas where we can help with PSYOP relevant input," said Staff Sgt. Adam Smith, a member of the Fort Bragg unit.

Psychological operations has many tools they unroll to encourage the healing

process. They have musical compact disks, posters, handbills, radio and television spots, newspapers and loud speakers. "Our overall job is to influence behavior in a specified target audience," said Smith.

UNMIK (United Nations Mission In Kosovo) sponsors the gathering of local leaders to discuss issues important to all the citizens. Small incidents of ethnic violence like rock throwing, name-calling, economic factors and unemployment are shared within the local UNMIK building with the mayors.

The local population seems receptive to the power of the media revealed in the PSYOP methods. "When we're coming through a town and handing out our products, like the KFOR newspaper, 'The Dialogue', they make a point of coming out to get it from us. They are really interested in what we have to say to the community," Smith said.

These highly trained soldiers take on the role of mediators also. U.S. infantry units such as the 1st Battalion, 32 Infantry Regiment (Task Force 1-32 Infantry "Chosin"), Fort Drum, N.Y., conduct patrolling duties, which means they walk the streets to ensure peace,

and provide a safe environment for the citizens of Kosovo. When tempers flare PSYOP appears. Spc. Peter Cole, a TPT member said, "We work with a lot of infantry units. If the people are demonstrating, we act as a go-between the civilian and military authorities. Some of the biggest methods we use are simply talking to people." They bring into play a large speaker system mounted atop a HMMWV (High Mobility Multi Wheeled Vehicle). It broadcasts their respective KFOR message. It can be heard from quite a distance.

Standing outside the UNMIK building and watching the procession of people walk by, Capt. Nick Joslin, HHC, TF 1-32, Fire Support Officer, acting as Information Operations Officer during his deployment to Kosovo, said, "I try to keep everyone friendly to us. As you know, there are lots of unemployed people in Kosovo. To quote the local principal—"even something as small as a pen or notepad can make a difference. It can help a kid with his education," he recalled.

Music is a medium, which crosses all (Please see PSYOPS, page 15)

*We can rebuild you, we have the technology...*

## TFMF Therapists have know how to assist you in your road to recovery

by Spc. Terry Boggs  
Staff Writer

**CAMP BONDSTEEL**—They say an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Well in case you are out today and left your ounce of prevention in your wall locker and get hurt, the pound of cure is waiting for you at TFMF. Your cure, at least in KFOR, comes in the form of a small staff of people and a treatment known as Physical Therapy.

"Physical Therapy is the rehabilitation of the musculoskeletal system, following injury or surgery," according to Capt. Greg Pollman, TFMF Physical Therapist. "We primarily use exercise, activity restriction, and various modalities, such as ultrasound, electrical stimulus and traction."

Staff Sgt. Douglas Biala, TFMF Physical Therapy Technician NCOIC, performs administrative duties as well as working with the patients themselves. He described Physical Therapy as a form of treatment for minor aches and pains, from sprained ankles to pulled back muscles.

"We rehab them through certain exercises," said Biala, who hails from the 86th Combat Support Hospital, Fort Campbell, Ky. "We try to get their body to function better than it was before. For example, if somebody has a bad posture, we educate and try and get them to use correct posture. We try to get them to do exercises to strengthen up their back."



Spc. Terry Boggs/photo

Carl Brannon, UKCSS BN, English Army, receives a boxers cast from Spc. Ronnie Allen, TFMF Physical Therapy. This particular type of cast is used frequently for boxers' injuries, hence the name. Brannon was not boxing when he sustained his injury.

He makes it sound easy, but receiving treatment is more complicated than just walking in and asking.

"They go to sick call first," explained Biala. "If the doctor feels they need further evaluation, they get a consult to see Physical Therapy. The Physical Therapist does an evaluation on the back to see exactly what is wrong with them. After that, we come along and give them the exercises to strengthen up their back and go back to duty better than they came."

The average treatment, he added takes around 3-4 weeks, 2 to 3 times per week, at 30 to 60 minutes per day. The program includes workout ma-

chines, such as treadmills and bicycles, as well as manual stretches and workouts. All are designed to help patients go from walking to running.

So it's not a miracle cure and it's not an overnight answer. But according to Biala, the TFMF team has a 100 percent success rate so far while in country. In other words, all of the people they have treated have returned to work in good condition. Those are good odds.

There can be some complications, however, but not from the TFMF side.

"It's hard to get people to follow the profile," said Pollman, who is also from the 86th CSH. "Their job require-

ments are such that we have trouble restricting their activities in a deployed environment."

This may be something for supervisors and commanders to keep in mind when assigning tasks, especially if they are physical in nature. For the person in Physical Therapy, straining the injury being treated can cause more damage and extend the amount of time it takes to heal.

There are a few people, however, who are unable to take advantage of the physical therapy program. These are the unfortunate soldiers whose injuries are too extreme to be treated at the TFMF. For them, Germany is their destination. But for the most part, your aches and pains can be taken care of by this medical facility, whose staff is highly qualified and very friendly.

The Physical

Therapy team offers services at all of the American KFOR camps. They treat soldiers from all nationalities, DOD civilians and even Kosovo nationals. According to Biala, the Bondsteel facility gets around 4 or 5 new patients a day, but treat about 25 on an ongoing basis on any given day. This makes for a busy group of people.

Of course, there are ways to avoid the need for the Physical Therapy's service. Use proper stretching technique before exercising; avoid straining yourself beyond your means; and of course, maintain proper posture.

In other words, use an ounce of prevention.

(COL. SAUL continued from page 4)

2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry. During the early days of his command tour he earned, through his bravery and sterling leadership, the Silver Star, the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart. On 31 October 1967, Capt. Pitts, while leading his company against a resolute and entrenched enemy formation, with complete disregard for his own safety threw himself onto an enemy hand grenade. When the grenade failed to explode, Capt. Pitts jumped up, rallied his soldiers and led the attack against an enemy bunker. He was killed by enemy small arms fire later in the battle. As a result of his conspicuous gallantry, Capt. Pitts was awarded the Medal of Honor. In fact, he is the first Black officer to have been awarded the Medal of Honor since its inception. Capt. Riley Pitts is truly a footnote in our Army's glorious history.

Lt. Col. Charles C. Rogers has the distinction of being the highest-ranking officer to be awarded the Medal of Honor during the war in Vietnam; in fact, he was the first of only two battalion commanders to earn our nation's most prestigious medal. However, Lt. Col. Rogers was

awarded the Medal of Honor for a specific act of conspicuous heroism during a single action. By 1968 Lt. Col. Rogers was enjoying a highly successful career, since his commissioning from West Virginia State College's ROTC program in 1951. He had served in a wide variety of challenging and prestigious assignments, around the world. As a graduate of the US Army Command and General Staff College, Rogers was assured of greater success. In 1968, his talents and abilities were recognized by his selection as a battalion commander. Clearly, he could take great pride in commanding the 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery in the vaunted 1st Infantry Division, the fabled Big Red One. In the early morning hours of 1 November 1968, Rogers's battalion, occupying an isolated fire support base (FSB) came under a determined enemy attack. Following a rocket, mortar, and rocket propelled grenade (RPG) bombardment, the enemy launched a human wave assault by fanatical troops of a North Vietnam Army (NVA) regiment. The enemy's attack so stunned the defenders it became a struggle for survival, charac-

terized by bloody and gruesome hand-to-hand combat. As the firebase was overrun, Rogers took up a position inside the commander's copula of a M109 howitzer, manning the Caliber .50 machine gun. He poured a withering and sustained fire into the enemy ranks. His accurate and timely fire broke up the enemy attack, allowing him to rally his troops. So effective was his machine gun fire, the enemy concentrated their weapons upon Rogers. In his exposed position, he was an easy target for the enemy. Several well-aimed rocket propelled grenades smashed into his howitzer. He suffered a number of bloody, painful wounds, yet, despite his condition, his leadership inspired his soldiers to successfully counter-attack and, subsequently, defeat the enemy assault. His conspicuous leadership, gallant actions and raw courage served to embolden his troops. Lt. Col. Rogers illustrious career continued for nearly 15 more years, culminating in his retirement as a major general and Deputy Corps Commander, V Corps in U.S. Army, Europe, (USAREUR). The M109, 155mm self-propelled howitzer, in

which Rogers manned the caliber 50 machine gun, "Charlie-22", is now prominently displayed at the US Army Field Artillery School, Fort Sill, Okla.

The history of the U.S. Army, from its inception in 1775 through the end of the war in Vietnam, is one of distinction and glory. During this period, Blacks served with great pride, dignity and valor. They made countless contributions to our freedom, and the freedom of peoples around the world. For a variety of reasons, many of these contributions are little known. The purpose of this, and my previous article, is to introduce the reader to the just a few of these great African-American military heroes. Many others served in anonymity and today are forgotten, but, as George Santayana once said, "Those who do not remember their history are doomed to repeat it."

### Correction...

In the February 3, 2002 edition of the Falcon Flier it was reported in the Father-Son story, which appeared on page 4, that Pfc. Adam Tracy is a member of Task Force Tiger's Bravo Co., 27th Combat Engineers (Fort Bragg, N.C.). However, Pfc. Adam Tracy is a soldier in HHC, 27th Combat Engineers. The Falcon Flier regrets the error and is glad to set the record straight.



# Chaplain's Corner

## The importance of developing your spiritual fitness

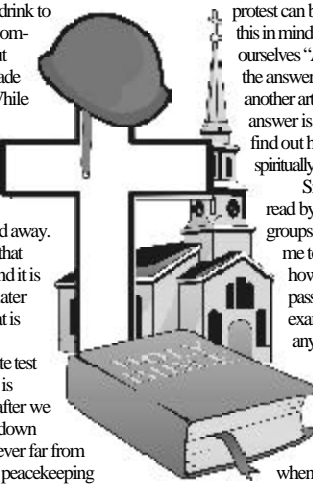
by Chaplain (Capt.) Matthew W. Vesey  
3rd Battalion, 6th Field Artillery Regt.

As soldiers in the Army we spend a considerable amount of time and effort keeping physically fit. At home stations we do PT once a day Monday through Friday, and while in Kosovo, most soldiers are able to do PT twice a day (if they want to). With all this PT going on, we can well within reason, say that we are physically fit, but can we say the same about our spiritual lives? Are we spiritually fit? In order to determine our level of physical fitness we have the Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT). In order to test our spiritual fitness another kind of test is needed. But, what kind of test would give us the best indication of our spiritual health?

Immediately a morality test springs to mind. We can ask ourselves moral questions and measure ourselves against the answers, questions like: "Do I use language to offend others?" "Do I avoid intimacy by focusing on pornography?" "Am I mean or cruel to those

around me?" "Do I drink to excess to cut off uncomfortable feelings about myself?" "Do I degrade the opposite sex?" While negative answers to these questions are indicators of spiritual problems they can easily be ignored or rationalized away. But, there is one test that cannot be ignored, and it is a test that sooner or later we all must take. That is the test of our death!

Yes, the ultimate test of our spiritual fitness is what happens to us after we die. While it can be down played, a soldier is never far from death, for even on a peacekeeping mission, a Humvee can roll over, a negligent discharge can miss the barrel, and a local



protest can become violent. With this in mind we should all ask ourselves "Am I spiritually fit?" If the answer is "Yes," then go read another article in this paper. If the answer is, "No," then we need to find out how we are made spiritually fit.

Since this is a newsletter read by people of various faith groups, it would be unfair of me to state my beliefs on how one enters heaven and passes the ultimate spiritual exam. I recommend that any who are interested in finding out more on this subject find a trusted chaplain or spiritual friend with whom to explore what happens when a person dies and how to prepare for that event.

So, where does this leave us? Oddly,

it leaves us in much the same place as if we were to desire physical fitness. If you and I want to be physically fit we go to the gym, or the running track, for there we find the equipment we need in order to be fit. Likewise, if we want to be spiritually fit we go to Chapel because that is where we hear the message about God that we need. Just as one's biceps do not grow if they do not pick up a weight, neither is faith developed when one does not struggle with the Word.

Unfortunately, I have heard more than a few soldiers laughingly tell me they are "Probably going to hell anyway." Obviously many who say this intend to make a joke because they are uncomfortable with spiritual conversations. However, some who make these quips are very discouraged with religion and communicate a loss of hope. If this is your attitude think again and talk to your chaplain, especially since it is so easy to become spiritually fit. One day, the body that we work out with so hard, and so often, will die. Death is not impressed with a PT score of 300.

### CBS Worship Service

#### Peacekeepers Chapel (North)

##### Sunday

8 a.m., Episcopal/Lutheran  
9:30 a.m., Roman Catholic Mass  
11 a.m., Collective Protestant  
12:30 p.m., Gospel Service

##### Monday

7 p.m., Women's and Single Soldiers' Bible studies

##### Tuesday

7 p.m., Catholic RCIA

##### Wednesday

12 p.m., Roman Catholic Mass  
6:30 p.m., Prayer Service  
7 p.m., Bible Studies

##### Thursday

7 p.m., Choir Rehearsal (Gospel)

##### Friday

12 p.m., Muslim Prayer Service  
7 p.m., Gospel Joy Night Service

##### Saturday

6:30 p.m., Stay Faithful Marriage Bible Study

#### South Chapel

##### Sunday

8 a.m., Roman Catholic Mass  
9:30 a.m., Collective Protestant  
11 a.m., LDS Service  
4 p.m., Gospel Service

##### Monday

7 p.m., Collective Protestant  
Choir Rehearsal

##### Tuesday

12 p.m., Roman Catholic Mass

##### Wednesday

7 p.m., Bible Study

##### Thursday

7 p.m., Bible Study

##### Friday

8 p.m., Jewish

##### Saturday

11 a.m., Seventh Day Adventist Service  
7 p.m., Choir Rehearsal (Gospel)

### CMT Worship Service

##### Sunday

9 - 10:30 a.m., General Protestant Service  
11 a.m. - 1 p.m., Gospel Service  
1:30 - 2:30 p.m., LDS Worship  
7 - 8 p.m., Catholic Mass

##### Monday

7 p.m., Chapel Movie Night w/ Discussion

##### Tuesday

7 - 9 p.m., Gospel Worship Practice

##### Wednesday

6:30 - 7:30 p.m., Gospel Worship Practice  
7:30 - 9 p.m., Bible Study

##### Thursday

6 - 7 p.m., General Protestant Practice  
7 - 8 p.m., General Protestant Bible Study  
8 - 9 p.m., General Protestant Worship

##### Friday

12 - 1 p.m., Muslim Service in Annex  
7 - 8:30 p.m.

##### Saturday

11 a.m. - 12 p.m., Seventh Day Adventist  
Worship

### Sector Worship

#### Protestant

##### Sunday

2 p.m., Debelde  
4 p.m., Binac Church

##### Sunday

Camp Magrath, 10 a.m.  
Zintinje Church, 11:30 a.m.  
Klokot, 2 p.m.  
Mogila, 3:30 p.m.  
Vrbovac Church, 4:30 p.m.  
Vrbovac, 7 p.m.

#### Latter Day Saints

##### Sunday

Camp Magrath, 2 p.m.

#### Roman Catholic

##### Monday

Klokot, 2 p.m.  
Vrbovac, 4 p.m.  
Camp Magrath, 7 p.m.

#### Other Activities

##### Sunday

Movie Night- 11 p.m.

##### Tuesday

Bible Study, 8 p.m.

### (CAMP BELVEDERE continued from page 11)

"People here are supportive of United States forces," said Spc. Ibzan Ortiz, an infantryman with C Co. 1-32 Inf. "Every time we walk around, they come out and shake our hands. They approve of us being here. We

were patrolling one day, and one man came and started shaking our hands, and kissing us, and telling us that America was great. It made me feel proud to be an American."

And as for living in a temporary set-up

here, and sleeping on cots in conex box sized rooms, the soldiers have taken that in stride.

"It's good living conditions, better than what you would expect for a temporary set

up," said King.

"We're in the infantry," said Piaget. "We're used to moving every few weeks. Living out of a rucksack is no big deal."

### (PYSOPS continued from page 13)

barriers, and this province is no different.

"Thursday mornings in Vitina is Market Day and we bring CD's made by KFOR and they have a lot of Top 40 songs on it and in between each song is a KFOR message that encourages school attendance, cooperation with KFOR and certain messages like that," said Smith. "We play the music down there and pass out our products. A lot of people talk to us and they like it. It's a good rapport builder. Now when we go to Vitina, they know who we are and they come and talk to us. We also give out KFOR CD's to the radio shows on a weekly basis. We have a PDD (Product

Development Detachment), which designs and produces our products. As the Tactical Team, we actually deliver the message. If we see something we know that needs to be addressed, and we come up with a certain idea, PDD figures out the best way to disseminate it and we deliver it."

A past PYSOP campaign to inform the citizenry has taken a foothold. Another instance of an impact indicator was seen on the drive to this town. The kids were holding their thumbs up. The previous campaign had a message called, "Thumbs Up For KFOR", and just seeing the kids means

they're getting the message and they're supporting us. That's a good feeling to know we did something that's having an impact. I came to PYSOP to help people. In helping people here, not only do I increase the quality of their lives, but I also increase the quality of life for KFOR soldiers also. If we don't have to worry about the civilian populace coming up and smacking them or being belligerent, that's good," he said.

Sitting in his HMMWV with a hand full of handbills to pass out was Sgt. Nicholas Jordan. "We usually give out between 300 and 600 products in a day," he said.

This day's product was Eurodollar information. The handbill explained the mark to Euro deadline. For the most part, these bills are reinforcement to get into the banks before the deadline on February 28th.

The team walked from store to store, talking to storekeepers and asking them their opinions.

"There is nothing secret or mystical about our unit," said Cole. "It's just some of the things they teach us to do before we come into an area. We study the group of people we're going to deal with, so we can learn and have a better understanding."

## Super Bowling

### D-Facs, MWR and NFL greats bring game excitement to Kosovo

by Cpl. Taylor  
Barbaree  
Editor

CAMP BONDSTEEL— It was midnight in February and football was still being played. Throughout Task Force Falcon, soldiers gathered at their respective base camps to witness one of the most patriotic and competitive Super Bowls in NFL history.

This year's event, generally heralded by avid NFL fans as "Super Sunday", took place in the "Big Easy" (New Orleans) at the Louisiana Superdome on Feb. 3. It was the first time in recent history the Super Bowl, the 36th event of its kind, took place in the month of the Groundhog. And yet despite the midnight kickoff in Kosovo and being thousand of miles from the game between the NFC's Saint Louis Rams and the AFC's New England Patriots, soldiers still had plenty to cheer about.

"They really did this one up right," said Sgt. Jeffrey Toniatti, NCOIC of TFF's JVB Operations section, noting all the patriotic festivities and the celebrations that took place before and during the halftime of the game. "I watch the Super Bowl each year, and I think this one has to be the best."

Compliments of AFN-TV, which began airing Super Bowl XXXVI coverage beginning at 5 p.m. (European time), servicemembers serving in 167 countries were able to watch the events unfold.

Performing prior and during the halftime intermission were entertainment icons Paul McCartney, NSYNC, U2, Mary J. Blige, and Marc Anthony. Pop diva Mariah Carey teamed up with The Boston Pops Orchestra for the national anthem, as former President George Herbert Walker Bush presided over the traditional coin toss.

Here and at Camp Magrath, Camp Monteith, and Camp Able Sentry soldiers settled down in front of the big screen televisions to watch the game and were treated to a variety of finger foods and beverages. Menus at each venue included: cheese sticks, onion rings, potato wedges, chicken wings, pizza, jalapeno poppers, french fries and all the near-beer they cared to eat and drink. Aside from the food and giveaways, which took place throughout the evening, there were several former NFL players and Super Bowl participants present.

"This is a wonderful experience and I'm glad that I received an opportunity to visit these great (servicemembers)," said Mike Wagner, who played on Super Bowl teams with the Pittsburgh Steelers in 1975, '76, '79 and '80. "I am especially glad to be in Kosovo, because right now the focus is on events taking place in Afghanistan. While that's certainly understandable, I know that everyone here is doing a great job as well."

Both Wagner and Mike Horan, a punter with the Saint Louis Rams when they beat the Tennessee Titans in 2000 during Super Bowl XXXIV, visited with servicemembers at Camp Bondsteel. At Camp Monteith, Eugene "Mercury" Morris (see related story page 12) visited with servicemembers while Napoleon McCallum and David Studdard signed



Camp Monteith's Pfc. Gabriel Aramaydo, Spc. Rhea Armas, Spc. Danny Jones and Staff Sgt. Michael Romero (left to right), react to one of the New England Patriots' big plays during Super Bowl XXXVI.

autographs and had photos made with soldiers at Camp Able Sentry and Camp Magrath. Their visits to Task Force Falcon were sponsored by MWR.

As with any big sports event, there was plenty of trash talking taking place as well.

"I'm going to call up Bill (Belichick) and tell him: 'Bill, you've got to pull out all the stops. There's a lot of non-believers here,'" Staff Sgt. Edwin Alicea, NCOIC of Camp Monteith's Area Support Team, said to a friend as the teams were introduced.

At Camp Bondsteel, sitting with a bevy of Saint Louis fans near by, Spc. Sean Jordan, a 'Red Leg' with A Battery, 3-62nd Air Defense Artillery, said, "Even though I am a San Francisco fan, I'm rooting for the Patriots, because they are the underdogs."

Spc. Adrian Bennett, combat engineer with C

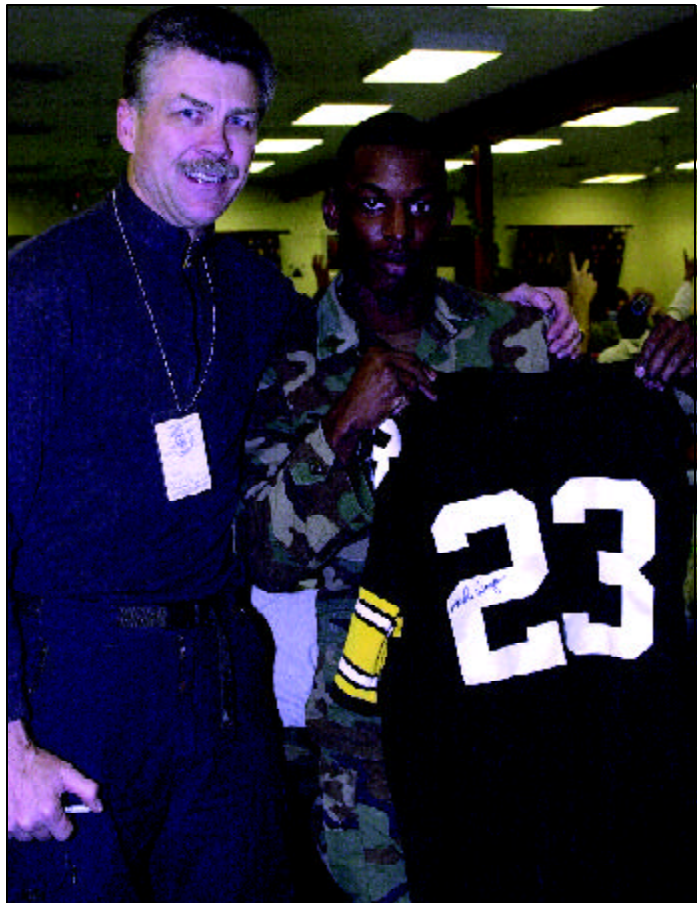
Co., 27th Engineer Battalion (Task Force Tiger) countered by stating his dislike for the Patriots.

"I'm a Saint Louis fan all the way, and I believe they can win it," he said, mentioning that he prefers this kind of game environment.

"I would rather watch the game here with my friends and other people than go back to my room. This is the closest to a Super Bowl party that you can have while here."

The game concluded in dramatic fashion around 4 a.m. as New England kicker Adam Vinatieri nailed a 48-yard field goal with time running out to give the Patriots a 20-17 win.

Editor's note: Falcon Flier staff writer, Spc. Bill Putnam contributed to this article.



Spc. Adrian Bennett, right, poses with former Pittsburgh great Mike Wagner. Wagner autographed his Steeler jersey and gave it to Bennett. Wagner and other former NFL players visited with servicemembers during the Super Bowl.